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**Testimony to the Human Services Committee**  
**Regarding Raised Bill 988**  
**An Act Concerning Medicaid Administration and Services**  
**Jeffrey Walter**  
**March 2, 2008**

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My name is Jeffrey Walter and I am here as co-chair of the CT Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council to testify in favor of HB 6417, AAC Medicaid Administration and Services. The BHP is the entity that provides behavioral health care services to HUSKY A and B recipients as well as children and youth under DCF's Voluntary Services Program. The Oversight Council is comprised legislators and their designees, advocates, providers, consumers and state agencies. It is co-chaired by myself and Senator Jonathan Harris. The council was established in statute to review the plans of DSS and DCF- the state agency partners- for provision of services, including the effectiveness of the program in expanding community-based, family-centered services and reducing unnecessary institutional care. The council is also charged with review and approval of provider rates and program financing.

The oversight council favors 988 because the bill will enable the State to recoup federal reimbursement for health services to low and low-moderate income citizens under the SAGA and Charter Oak programs. .

The council requests that the Human Services Committee amend the bill to provide for oversight of Charter Oak by the BHP Oversight Council. Further, we would request that the behavioral health services provided under Charter Oak be equivalent to those available to HUSKY members, including coverage limits, copays and deductibles. These provisions will provide equity and fairness in the provision of behavioral health services to Charter Oak members and will bring the program in line with other state statutes and policy.

I appreciate your support of behavioral health services to Connecticut citizens and your support of our council.